

309 Yoakum Pkwy #601

Alexandria, VA 22304

December 8, 1985

Dear Mom and Dad,

One of my classes is over and I have completed most of the work for the other one which ends next Monday. With a little more time now I was able to take the day off from school work. We drove down to Old Town and rode our bikes to Mt. Vernon and back. The day was cool (40's) but sunny and calm. There were quite a few runners on the trail but few other bikers. It was a beautiful day on the trail with the sun rather low and shining through the trees which by now have only a few brown leaves left on them. We ate lunch at the Fish Market in Old Town and then came home. There were lots of shoppers out and about. We have "dropped out" from the Christmas shopping routine and heartily recommend it to you as a way to actually enjoy the season.

We're certainly glad you enjoyed Thanksgiving and that your weather has warmed up. We enjoyed our dinner out and the long weekend gave me time to get ahead on my school projects. We are still going to various events. We went to Hartke Theater (at Catholic University) to see a production of George Bernard Shaw's, "Arms and the Man," a play we had seen in London several years ago. There was a lecture at the Smithsonian on recent excavations near the Egyptian pyramids at Giza which was particularly interesting to us because we were there last summer. Finally, last Friday we went to see the Smithsonian Chamber Orchestra which featured several pieces for the violin.

Now we are starting to think about our dinner party. Vickie collected a number of cookbooks from the library and our menu is pretty well set. The party is December 21st. Lyn Sanchez had a baby boy on Thanksgiving Day but we don't know if she will bring the child or not.

We are now the owners of a house in Bellevue and are hoping Sandi will find some renters soon. As you may know, the delay in settlement resulted because the woman couldn't afford to sell her house, an unusual situation to say the least! Her estranged husband had not made the mortgage payments so the cash she owed the mortgage company and the real estate commission exceeded the amount she would receive at settlement. Anyway, things finally worked out.

We have been enjoying Masterpiece Theater. The last series was about the race to the South Pole between the Norwegian Amundsen and the British Scott. Amundsen won while Scott and some others froze to death on the ice. I have dreamed about that last scene where they are discovered huddled together in a little tent. Now we have started watching "Bleak House" which is a dramatization of the Dickens novel I sent you. The first episode was a real pleasure and the series has gotten good reviews. It is almost time for the show to start so I will close for now.

Love,

Jim & Vickie